

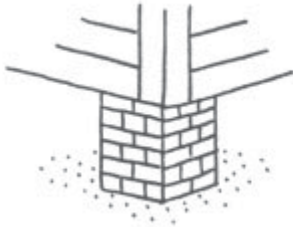
South Carolina Historic Rehabilitation Incentives Act

Tips for Writing an Architectural Description

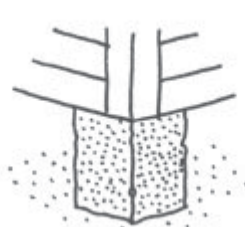
An architectural description clearly and briefly describes the overall and detailed characteristics of a residence. Use the check off boxes on the *Certified Rehabilitation Application* S1, section 5 to describe your historic residence. This guidance will make you more familiar with historic architectural terms.

FOUNDATIONS

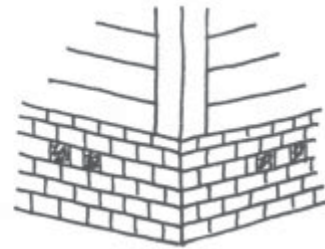
Historic foundations were traditionally either brick or stone pier, or solid brick wall. In more recent years of the twentieth century, many homeowners found it necessary, for energy efficiency, aesthetics or other reasons, to enclose brick and stone pier foundations with brick, stone, cement block or other materials. In some other instances, owners stuccoed over brick piers and/or brick-infilled foundations.



Brick Pier



Stucco Pier



Brick Wall

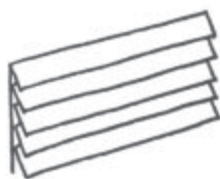
EXTERIOR WALLS

Exterior walls of residences can be made of a variety of materials. Most historic brick or stone walls are load-bearing; however, many early to mid-twentieth century residences can have wood frame with brick veneer cladding as original construction.

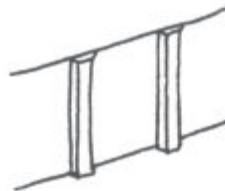
Stucco is often applied over masonry or over wood frame walls.

Wood-sided residences are typically clad in horizontal lapped weatherboard. Other wood siding includes vertical board-and-batten. Wood shingles clad wood frame walls and were available in a variety of shapes and patterns, such as coursed, staggered, fishscale, sawtooth, and diamond.

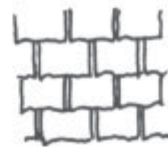
Alterations to historic exterior walls usually entail the application of a non-historic material over the historic wall materials. Typical synthetic materials include asbestos shingles and aluminum or vinyl siding. Brick was sometimes added as a veneer to wood frame buildings over the historic wood siding. Asbestos shingle siding was typically installed over historic wood siding, but can be an original treatment in post-World War II residences.



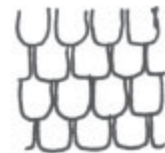
Wood Siding



Board & Batten



Shingles



Fishscale Shingles

DOORS

Exterior and interior doors usually contain multiple wood panels, but there can be combinations of wood and glass panels. Paired doors with glass panels only (French doors) are typically an interior feature, but can also provide access to porches or terraces.



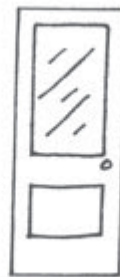
2 Panel



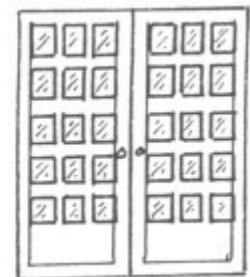
4 Panel



6 Panel



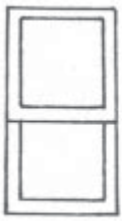
Glass over Panel



Paired French Doors

WINDOWS

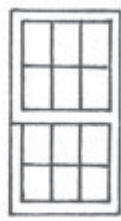
Historic windows are generally wood-framed double-hung sash, but can be wood or metal casement as well. They are often identified by the number of glass panels in each sash, such as 1 over 1 (1/1), 2 over 2 (vertical panels), 6 over 6 (6/6), 9 over 9 (9/9), etc. A Queen Anne style window typically has small panes around the outer edge of the upper sash, often using colored glass. If historic windows have been replaced with non-matching units, indicate the type and design of the replacement windows.



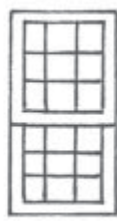
1 over 1



2 over 2



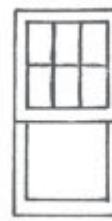
6 over 6



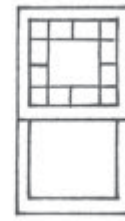
9 over 9



3 over 1



6 over 1



Queen Anne



Casement

ELEVATIONS

Provide the number of stories (levels of living space) within your residence. A one-story residence typically contains one level of living space and a storage attic located under a roof that may or may not feature dormer windows. A one-and-a-half story residence can be one of two scenarios: one level plus a short story of living space, or one level plus a finished attic or loft under a roof that may or may not feature dormer windows, but usually contains gable windows. In certain regions of South Carolina many residences contain raised masonry basements that are either at grade or partially below grade. Please count only the stories above the raised basement level.



**1 Story with
Basement**



1 Story



1 1/2 Stories



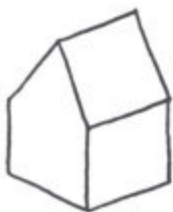
2 Stories



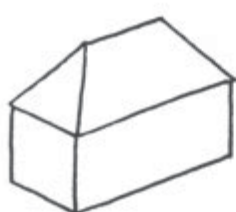
2 1/2 Stories

ROOFS

Roofs may be gable, hip, pyramidal or contain a combination of forms (complex). Historic roof materials include wood shingles, slate shingles, clay tiles, decorative metal shingles, standing seam metal, V-crimp metal, or corrugated metal. Later or replacement roofing materials include asbestos shingles, asphalt shingles, and composition shingles.



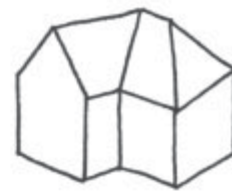
Gable



Hip



Pyramidal



Complex

CHIMNEYS

Chimneys are typically constructed of brick, stone, or a combination of brick and stone. Sometimes brick chimneys have been stuccoed. In this category, describe the chimneys in your residence.

INTERIOR WALLS

Historic interior walls and ceilings are typically finished in wood (tongue-and-groove or flushboard and beaded board) or plaster over wood or metal lath. Wainscot (a treatment of the lower half of the wall in a different material), when present, may be paneled or beaded board. In kitchens or bathrooms in homes of the early twentieth century, a wainscot of gypsum board scored to look like tile may be present. By the mid-twentieth century, drywall (sheetrock) was being used widely in residences to simulate the look of plaster.